

REMARKS

THE PRESENT INVENTION AND PENDING CLAIMS

Of the original 20 claims, 16 are currently pending. These claims, as amended, are now specifically directed to a teat that is configured to provide multiple functions which depend upon the configuration of a plate with a vestibular screen and specific interactions between a nipple projecting from the plate and the tongue. Claim 1, as amended, requires a plate shaped to have limbs extending along at least a portion of the dental arches, and a nipple, elastically connected to the plate, which projects rearwards beyond the ends of the limbs of the plate. In this way, the nipple is located to be in register with the back portion of the tongue so as to stimulate movement analogous to that of suckling. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION OF NOVEMBER 14, 2003

The Office Action of November 14, 2003, was designated final. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that the rejection of claims 1-20 under Branam (U.S. Patent 5,814,074) in view of Orpaz (EP 0 383 315) was withdrawn. Nevertheless the then pending claims were rejected on other bases.

Taking the points of the Office Action in turn, the Examiner noted that the application did not contain an abstract, and hence an abstract has been added by amendment herein. Likewise, the Examiner presented guidelines to illustrate the preferred lay out for the specification of a utility application, and those guidelines have been applied to the specification.

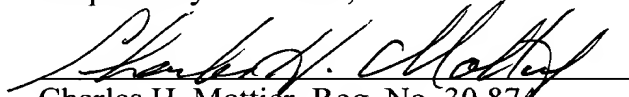
In the claims, claims 1, 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,207,120 to Younker. All of the other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Specifically, claims 3-7, 9, 11-17, 19 and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Younker in view of EP 0 400 217 A1 to Bergersen, and claims 8 and 18 were rejected over Younker in view of Bergersen, and further in view of EP 0 383 315 A1 to Orpaz.

In re Appln. of Dussere
Application No. 09/937,906

CONCLUSION

The application as amended is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, further issues remain upon consideration of this response to the Office Action of November 14, 2003, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 14, 2004